

MPA Report on 2011 Season

Summary

Growth of lacrosse

- Collegiate level – recent new teams promote the sport
- Youth & middle school – significant growth (assignments doubled)
- Scholastic – slight growth (547 MPA games)

Scheduling games

- Scheduling – “busy” days are hard to cover
 - 55% of MPA games on Wed & Sat
 - 45% on other 4 weekdays
- Weather – was very disruptive in 2011
 - 15% of MPA games canceled
 - 24% rescheduled

Travel expense

- Per school per season
 - Maximum \$452
 - Minimum \$121
 - Average / median \$329 / \$340

Association & assigning

- Membership ~ 65-70 members; steady growth in recent years
 - Recruitment & training ~ 15% of membership per year
 - Attrition ~ 10% of membership per year
- Geographic distribution – shortage of members south of Kennebunk
- Experience level – one indicator of capability
 - 50% over 5 years
 - 25% under 2 years
- Assigning objectives – new assignor modified priorities for 2011
 - One experienced official as Referee on every varsity game
 - Minimize repeat partners, to promote consistency & provide training
 - Minimize repeat trips to schools, to maintain objectivity
 - Control travel expense for schools

RECOMMENDATION – Encourage schools to schedule weekday games throughout the week

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Growth of lacrosse

Games Covered by MLOA

| Games Played Level of play | League | | | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|----------|------------|
| | none | CCC | SMMSAC | MAISAD | KVAC | SMAA | WMC | MPA | |
| Rec 3/4 | 37 | | | | | | | | 37 |
| Rec 5/6 | 79 | | | | | | | | 79 |
| Rec 7/8 | 112 | | | | | | | | 112 |
| Middle School | 6 | 85 | 46 | | | | | | 137 |
| 1st Team | | | | 1 | 7 | 7 | 7 | | 22 |
| JV | | | | 16 | 67 | 83 | 53 | | 219 |
| Play day | | | | 11 | 5 | 8 | | | 24 |
| Exhibition | | | | 2 | 4 | 17 | 14 | | 37 |
| Varsity | 1 | | | 30 | 99 | 90 | 66 | | 286 |
| Tournament, JV | | | | 3 | | | | | 3 |
| Tournament | | | | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 23 |
| Grand Total | 235 | 85 | 46 | 66 | 188 | 212 | 145 | 2 | 979 |

MLOA covered 979 games in 2011, up from 802 in 2010. The 22% increase was driven by recreation league and middle school games.

MLOA covered 547 MPA sanctioned freshman, JV and varsity games (shaded above), or 56% of non-collegiate lacrosse in Maine.

In addition, 51 JV contests and 40 preseason and exhibition contests were canceled, primarily due to bad weather. ***Schools wanted to play 15% more lacrosse!***

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Scheduling games

Distribution of MPA Games

| Count of Games Level | Day of Week | | | | | | Total |
|-------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|
| | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
| Play day / exhibition | 5 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 19 | 48 |
| 1st Team | 5 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 21 |
| JV | 21 | 14 | 66 | 26 | 34 | 42 | 203 |
| Varsity | 27 | 21 | 80 | 32 | 37 | 58 | 255 |
| Tournament | | 1 | 9 | | | 10 | 20 |
| Grand Total | 58 | 46 | 162 | 68 | 78 | 135 | 547 |

30% of the MPA games were played on Wednesdays and another 25% on Saturdays. ***On the busiest days (16 to 22 varsity games scheduled), some officials worked at multiple schools.***

Games Rescheduled

| Count of Games Conference / Level | Rescheduled? | | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| | Yes | No | |
| KVAC | 43 | 135 | 178 |
| Play day / exhibition | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 1st Team | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| JV | 15 | 49 | 64 |
| Varsity | 23 | 75 | 98 |
| SMAA | 58 | 147 | 205 |
| Play day / exhibition | 12 | 13 | 25 |
| 1st Team | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| JV | 21 | 62 | 83 |
| Varsity | 22 | 68 | 90 |
| WMC | 24 | 116 | 140 |
| Play day / exhibition | 9 | 5 | 14 |
| 1st Team | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| JV | 5 | 48 | 53 |
| Varsity | 6 | 60 | 66 |
| Grand Total | 125 | 398 | 523 |

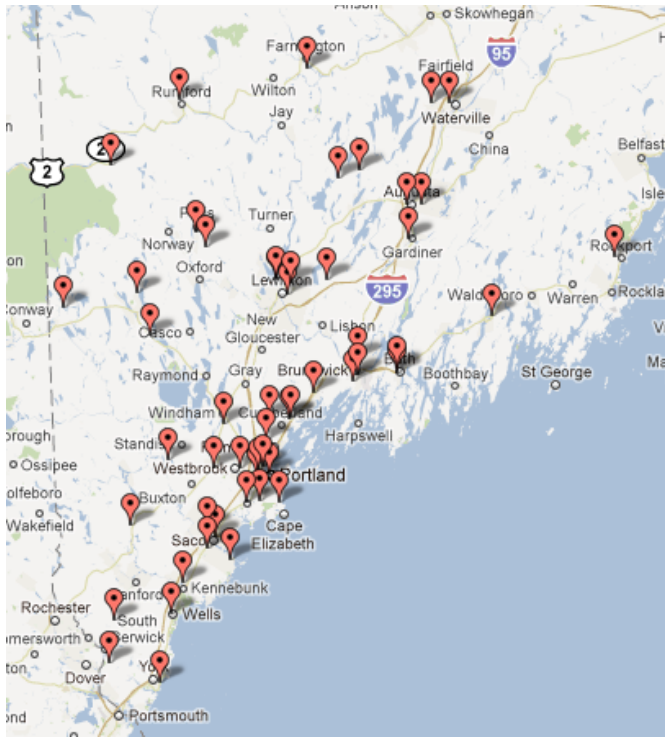
In addition to the cancelations previously noted, 24% of all regular season games were rescheduled, primarily due to weather.

This not only creates a significant workload for the assignor, but also tends to increase travel expense. Most officials plan and make commitments based upon their original game schedules and are unable to share rides when assignments change at short notice.

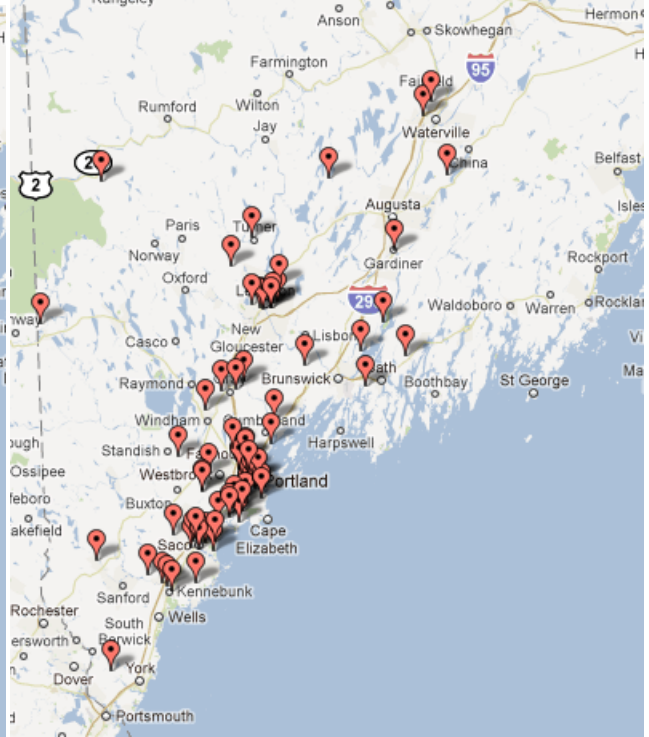
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Travel expense

Game Sites



Officials



The geographic distributions of schools and officials are not aligned. Most officials live between Kennebunk and Lewiston. As a result, it is necessary to set travel distances quite high to achieve a reasonable pool of officials for the most remote schools, for example:

| School | Camden | Fryeburg | Lincoln | Marshwood | Mt Blue | Mtn Valley | Wells | York |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| One way mileage | 60 | 40 | 45 | 40 | 45 | 45 | 35 | 40 |
| Resulting pool | 16 | 29 | 23 | 26 | 18 | 17 | 27 | 21 |

Regular season costs for each MPA member school, normalized for 6 for both varsity / JV home dates, were as follows:

- MPA base officials' fees \$1,278
- Average mileage expense \$329 (26% of base fees)

When analyzed by school, however, there was considerable variation:

- Median mileage expense \$340
- Maximum mileage expense \$452
- Minimum mileage expense \$121

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The school with the **highest** mileage expense scheduled varsity and JV on *different* fields at the *same* time on its three Saturday home dates. This resulted in two sets of officials traveling to the school on each of those Saturdays. In addition, this school is near the southern end of the state.

Schools on the perimeter of the lacrosse geography tended to see higher travel costs. Schools on the Kennebunk to Lewiston axis tended to see lower travel costs.

The school with the **lowest** mileage expense scheduled several varsity / JV doubleheaders on Tuesdays and Thursdays, when the demand for officials is lowest. In addition, this school is located in the Portland area.

Recommendation

Encourage schools to schedule weekday games more evenly throughout the week. (Usually, all officials are available on Saturdays, whereas many officials have time and mileage constraints during the week.)

This would benefit both officials and schools:

- Smooth out the workload for officials
- Improve the availability of officials
- Reduce travel expenses for many schools

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Association and assigning

MLOA Membership

MLOA ended 2010 with 64 officials; 5 did not return for 2011. We trained 9 new officials and started the season with 68 officials, but lost 3 to injury and 1 to sea duty. On busy days, we were stretched very thin.

| Experience level | Start of season | End of season |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Over 5 years | 34 | 31 |
| 5th year | 8 | 8 |
| 4th year | 1 | 1 |
| 3rd year | 8 | 8 |
| 2nd year | 8 | 8 |
| 1st year | 9 | 8 |
| Total officials | 68 | 64 |

Ideally, an official should have 2-3 years of experience before receiving varsity assignments. Due to availability constraints and weather impacts, some 2nd year officials do get a few varsity games.

MLOA has been training officials from other sports and lacrosse players as lacrosse officials. MLOA will recruit aggressively in the southern and midcoast areas, in order to make more officials available for schools on the geographic perimeter.

Assigning

MLOA selected a new assignor for 2011 and changed the balance of competing priorities. In particular, we sought to have officials see more different teams and officials, without unduly increasing mileage.

Experienced Referee on every game

Every varsity game is a “big” game for the players on the field. Until the playoffs, very few games had two “referee caliber” officials assigned.

Frequency of officials working at schools

Having any official see a particular team too many times can create problems for the official and the coach. The distribution of officials across teams was significantly smoother than in 2010.

- No official working varsity games saw one team more than 3 times at home.
- Only 5 of 40 MPA varsity teams saw one official more than twice at home.
- No varsity team saw more than one official 3 times at home.

Frequency of officials working together

To promote consistency of officiating across the association, MLOA attempted to have senior officials work with a greater number of partners than in previous years.

- Only 12 of 55 officials receiving varsity assignments saw another official three times, for a total of 18 out of 255 MPA games covered.
- Only 2 officials worked 4 varsity games together.